



All Things Passover



Teaching Kids to Say the Four Questions

Traditionally recited at the seder by the youngest child present, the Four Questions, or Mah Nishtanah in Hebrew, ask about certain Passover rituals. Each question and its answer is printed below followed by fun videos your family can use to practice the Four Questions--and their answers--with your children. You'll also find tips for children who may be a little bit nervous about being in the spotlight.

Since asking questions is a key part of what makes the seder so special, don't be shy about asking your own questions about Passover and seeking out answers with your kids as well.

The Four Questions

All four questions help answer one big question: Why is this night unlike all others?

On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread. On this night, why do we eat only unleavened matzah?

Answer: To remind us of the haste with which our ancestors left Egypt.

On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs. On this night, why only bitter herbs?

Answer: To remind us of the bitterness of slavery.

On all other nights we do not dip our herbs even once. On this night, why do we dip them twice?

Answer: Some say to remind us of our coming and going from Egypt.

On all other nights we eat sometimes sitting and sometimes reclining. On this night, why do we all recline?

Answer: To remind us of how free people relax.

Printable PJ Library Passover Question Catcher

Remember when you were in the fourth grade and looked to “origami fortune tellers” for answers to life’s big questions? We’ve transformed them into Passover Question Catchers.

The yellow and green catcher is for ages 4 and under. The blue is for ages 5 and up. Both are great for family fun!

Download the template of your choice, fold along the red lines to make your catcher, and use the instructions below to get set up and to learn how to play.

How to Fold Your Question Catcher

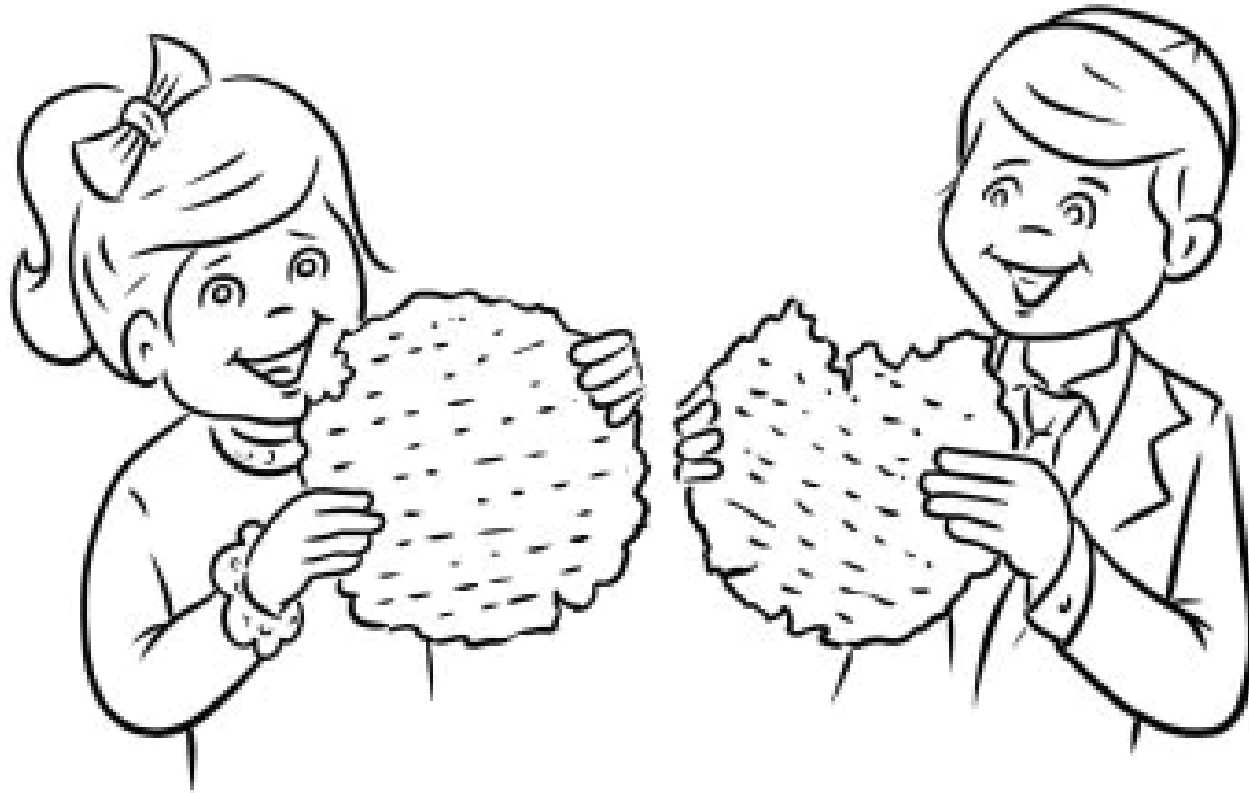
1. Turn the page to the blank side. Fold each corner point to the center of the paper.
2. Flip the page to the question side, and fold each corner point to the center of the paper.
3. Fold the page in half so the numbers are facing each other on the inside.
4. Slide your thumb and index finger behind two square pockets and pinch. Repeat with your other hand.

How to Play

The Player picks a Passover symbol or color, and the Holder shuffles the number of times that symbol appears. The Player then picks one of the numbers visible and the Holder shuffles that number of times. The Player then chooses a number and unfolds that flap to reveal a question.



מַצוֹת



MATZAH

Story of Passover

The first Passover happened long ago in the far-away country of Egypt. A mean and powerful king, called Pharaoh, ruled Egypt. Worried that the Jewish people would one day fight against him, Pharaoh decided that these people must become his slaves. As slaves, the Jewish people worked very hard. Every day, from morning until night, they hammered, dug, and carried heavy bricks. They built palaces and cities and worked without rest. The Jewish people hated being slaves. They cried and asked God for help. God chose a man named Moses to lead the Jewish people.

Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "God is not happy with the way you treat the Jewish people. He wants you to let the Jewish people leave Egypt and go into the desert, where they will be free." But Pharaoh stamped his foot and shouted, "No, I will never let the Jewish people go!" Moses warned, "If you do not listen to God, many terrible things, called plagues, will come to your land." But Pharaoh would not listen, and so the plagues arrived. First, the water turned to blood. Next, frogs and, later, wild animals ran in and out of homes. Balls of hail fell from the sky and bugs, called locusts, ate all of the Egyptians' food.

Each time a new plague began, Pharaoh would cry, "Moses, I'll let the Jewish people go. Just stop this horrible plague!" Yet no sooner would God take away the plague than Pharaoh would shout: "No, I've changed my mind. The Jews must stay!" So God sent more plagues. Finally, as the tenth plague arrived, Pharaoh ordered the Jews to leave Egypt.

Fearful that Pharaoh might again change his mind, the Jewish people packed quickly. They had no time to prepare food and no time to allow their dough to rise into puffy bread. They had only enough time to make a flat, cracker-like bread called matzah. They hastily tied the matzah to their backs and ran from their homes.

The people had not travelled far before Pharaoh commanded his army to chase after them and bring them back to Egypt. The Jews dashed forward, but stopped when they reached a large sea. The sea was too big to swim across. Frightened that Pharaoh's men would soon reach them, the people prayed to God, and a miracle occurred. The sea opened up. Two walls of water stood in front of them and a dry, sandy path stretched between the walls. The Jews ran across. Just as they reached the

other side, the walls of water fell and the path disappeared. The sea now separated the Jews from the land of Egypt. They were free!

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Who Knows About Passover?

A card game for the whole family at the Passover Seder

This game can be played in stages, so you can stop and start and enjoy a round at any point during the Passover seder.

How to Play

Place the cards facedown in a pile.

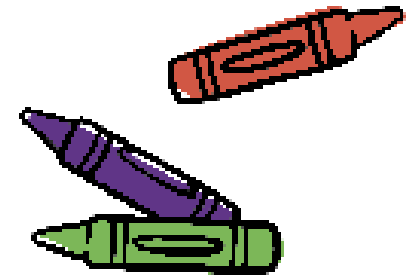
Each player, in turn, withdraws a card from the deck and follows the instructions on it.

It is recommended - and the most fun - to follow the instructions with other people around the table.



How to Make an Easy Afikomen Bag

On Passover, it isn't enough to merely remember the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt; we must also teach our children about it. Children are active participants in the seder (the ritual meal) from start to finish. The night opens with the Four Questions — and reciting them is a child's special job. Families have different fun ways of involving the kids throughout the seder, from rewarding questions about the Exodus with treats to acting out the Passover story. The seder can't end without finding the afikomen, a special piece of matzah that is hidden during the meal. This is also often the domain of the little ones, who race to find the hidden matzah. So, call kids to the table! This night is about them.



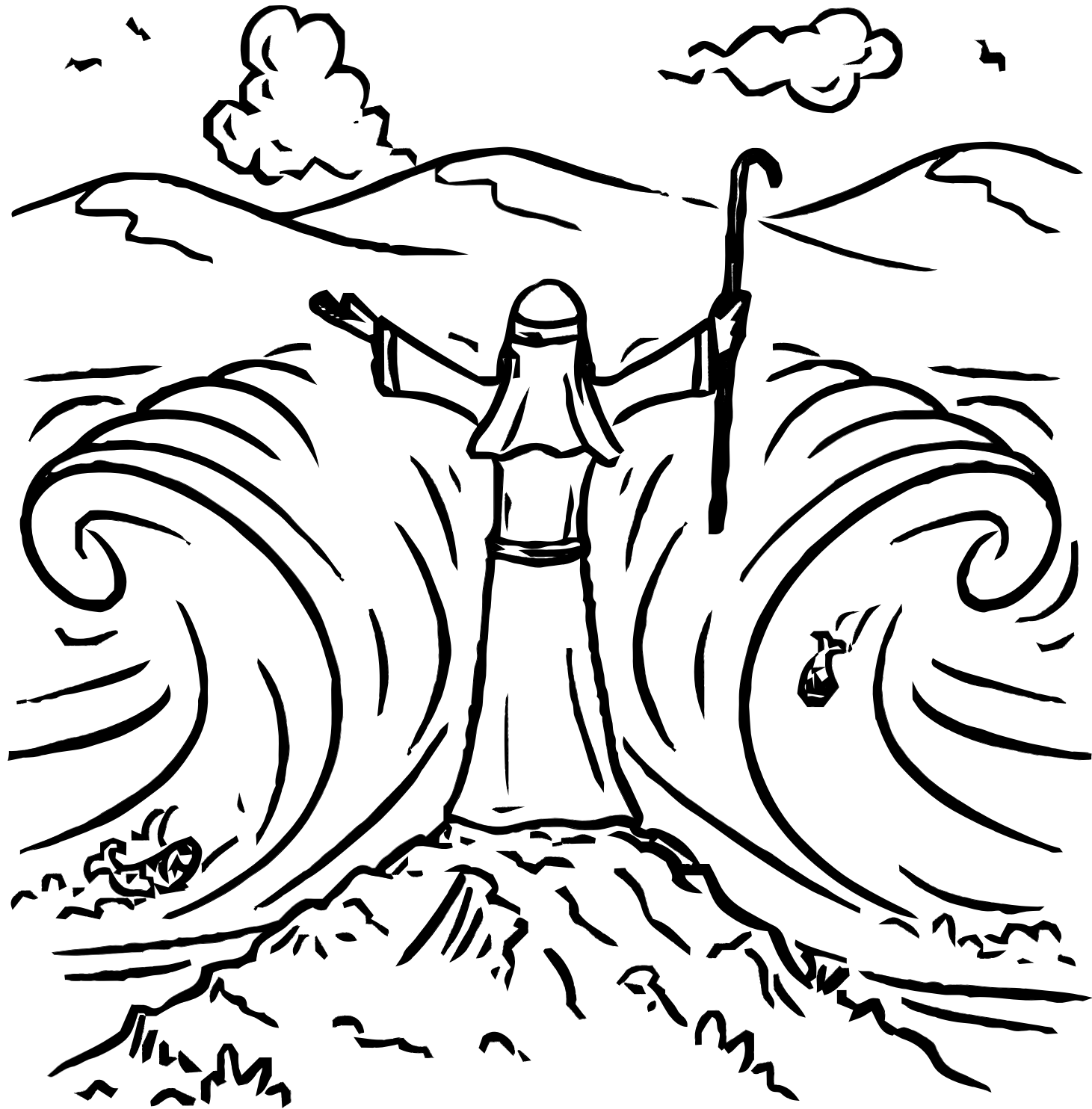
Supplies

- Zippered plastic bag
- Decorative duct tape or washi tape
- Stickers (optional)
- Markers

Directions

Use strips of decorative duct tape to cover the outside of the plastic bag. Write "Afikomen" in marker, then enhance with a few stickers (if desired). Now your afikomen bag is ready for some matzah and for a game of hide-and-seek!





What Happens at a Seder?

The Passover seder, the traditional meal and celebration for Passover, is designed to be an experience for everyone. It includes stories, questions, explanations, special foods, and even a game of hide-and-seek. The Haggadah, the traditional guidebook to this special night, includes a reminder that on the seder night, everyone should be welcome at our table.

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When is the seder?

The seder takes place on the first night of Passover, after sunset. Some families also hold a seder on the second night of Passover.

How long is the seder?

Every family is different and every seder is different. Your seder is as unique as your own family's tradition. Some families speed through a seder while others draw it out over the course of a long evening, lounging on cushions, sipping juice and wine, and enjoying each other's company.

When do you eat?

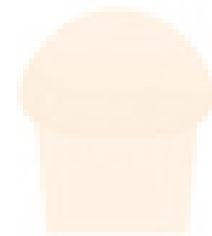
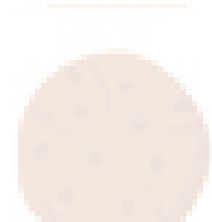
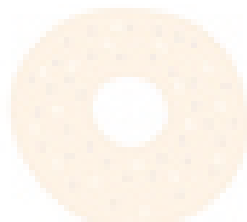
You'll eat special symbolic foods during the course of the seder. You'll enjoy the main festive meal after you finish telling the story of Exodus.



Hunt For Chametz

Chametz (a Hebrew word derived from the verb “to sour or ferment”) refers to any food made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, or their derivatives, which has come in contact with moisture or water and has been allowed to leaven or rise. To commemorate the Jewish slaves’ hasty departure from Egypt when there was no time for bread to rise, families often celebrate Passover by feasting on matzah and removing all types of chametz or leavening from their homes. The Torah instructs "For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses" [Exodus 12:19]. Many people spend the days before Passover removing the physical bread crumbs from their homes.

Go on a "Chametz-hunt" with your family, using flashlights to search for any leftover crumbs or errant boxes of crackers hiding around your home.



Passover Recipes to Get You Through the School Week

Start off with the most important meal of the day. Each of these yummy breakfasts is easy to pre-prepare, travel well for lunch or snack, and can even be a tasty dessert or dinner addition.

Breakfast

Charoset
Breakfast Balls



Fluffy
Frittata



Ricotta
Breakfast Crisps



Snacks

Layered
Parfait



Make Your Very
Own Corn Tortillas





What are the parts of the seder?

Seder means “order.” Even a simple Haggadah includes many different blessings, songs, and stories that take place in a traditional order. Overall, there are 15 different activities, or steps, to a Passover seder. The seder generally breaks down into five parts:

Lighting Candles: Jewish holidays begin at sunset with candle lighting. As darkness fills the evening sky, burning candles spark brightness inside. The candles’ warm light stands for hope and freedom. On the first night of Passover, an extra blessing is added to remember how special it is to celebrate a seder for the first time in a year — or even for the first time ever.

Reciting the Order: At the seder, we do 15 activities in a certain order. Some take only a minute to do, while others include many things to read, talk about, or sing. Reciting the 15 steps of the seder lays out the order of the seder, like a program at a play or a menu at a meal.

The Passover Story: The longest section of the seder is called Magid, which means “tell.” In this section we tell, sing, act, and ask questions about the Passover story from many different angles.

Dinner Time: After telling the story, it’s time to enjoy some symbolic foods and a festive meal. Enjoying the beautiful holiday meal is another way to show we are free. Families set their Haggadah aside, and after eating, pick it back up to finish their seder.

Singing and Celebrating: We escaped from Pharaoh, told our story, and enjoyed our Passover meal. Now it’s time to celebrate our freedom with songs, games, and finding the afikomen.



Build Something

For restless hands, keep blocks like legos or duplo on hand. If children are getting antsy they can build scenes from Exodus, keep their hands occupied, or, as one family suggested, build pyramids to act out the early part of the story.



Lunch

Chicken Skewers
with Avocado Dip



Fire-Roasted Tomato
Soup with Matzah
Cheddar Crisps



Dinner

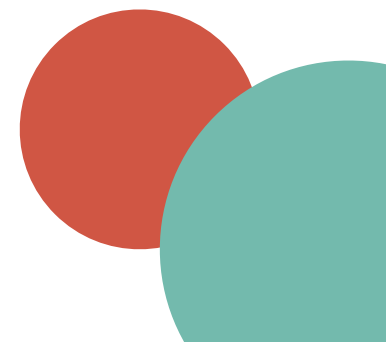
Roasted Broccoli
Florets with Lemon
Garlic Matzah
Crumbs



Brisket Recipe



Vegetarian
'Chicken' Soup



Make a Donation

Find and support a charitable organization that speaks to you.



Make a gift to the Jewish Federation of Orange County by scanning below



Why do you drink four cups of wine or grape juice?

Wine and its blessing mark special days (or nights!) when we feel glad and grateful for good things that have happened to us. The seder is an extra special one of those nights. The first cup of wine is called Kadesh, which means “make it holy” or “make it special” in Hebrew. With this first cup, we add blessings that describe Passover as a gift, a time to thank God and to celebrate being free.

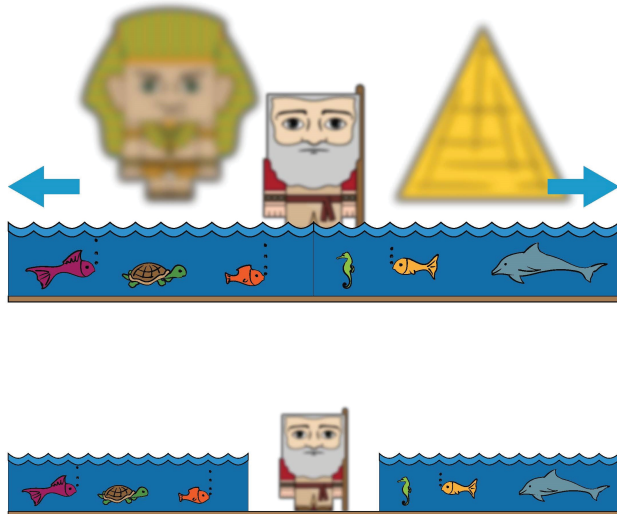


Printable Passover Scene

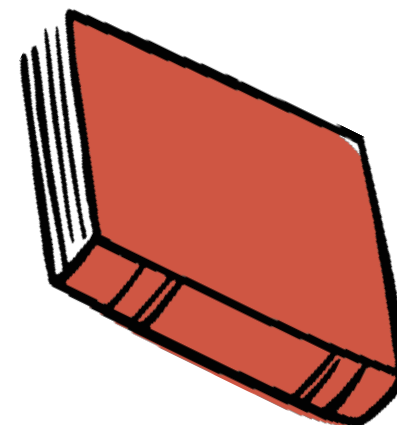
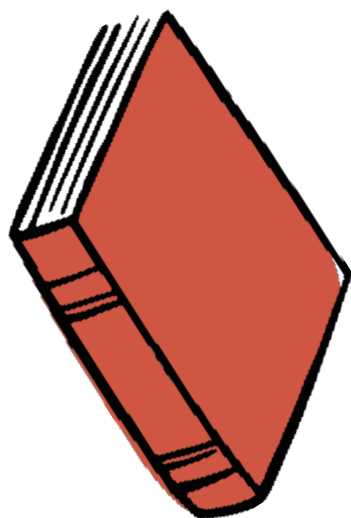
Kids can use this printable to act out their own scenes from the Passover story. Thank you to our friends at PJ Library in Russia, an American Jewish Joint Distribution partnership project, and illustrator Konstantin Bolotin for sharing this activity with us. This activity works best for ages 6-8 and requires the use of scissors.

Instructions:

Print out the character sheets, sea landscape, and the Egyptian pyramids. Cut them out and construct the cube characters by matching up the letters on the tabs. On the wider tab there's a small white line. Cut this line to make a slit and then insert the smaller tab in to this. You can also fold and glue the tabs instead.



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